

## EDITORIAL

## BIG FIGURES ARE COMING OUT.

When the bill is presented by the Investigation Committee for expenses incurred by that committee there will be figures of magnitude and the people will learn what an expensive luxury it is to have expert accountants.

Specially the imported kind.

That they will come high is to be expected; much higher than would have been the same talent and ability, equally as good and expert, available in Florida.

Fortunately for some of us the large lumber concerns, municipal corporations and insurance companies have sufficient confidence in the Florida accountants to keep them more or less continuously employed, and—

Yet, the committee absolutely ignored this fact and sent off for the imported article at fancy figures.

Before those doors were opened by the House, my attention was called to the March issue of the Journal of Accountancy, page 412.

Thereon is set forth the interesting fact that the firm of Haskins & Sells, of New York, certified that—in the course of recent legal proceedings—the minimum fee for one of its principals was \$50 per day, for accountants \$25 per day and for assistant accountants \$15 per day.

When the doors are opened, and Monday is the day that will see them swing, thanks to the House, will the bill of expenses show these men to be assistant accountants, accountants or principals?

Knowing so little up to this time of what the committee does, it may develop that we may have perhaps a principal or two engaged in the work of accountancy of which no account could be obtained. Monday's meeting will show this, thanks to the House.

Though it may develop that no principal is engaged, yet in the present case the accountant, however excellent he may be, is responsible to his principals who are a thousand miles away.

There has been an established movement in this State to secure good accountants, and at the rigid examination last month of the State Society of Accountants five took their certificates. This examination was equal to the standards maintained and set by other States, New York included.

For the committee to have gone so far out of its way to secure what was so readily available at its hands right at home was entirely inexcusable, being a reflection on the State.

The firm of Haskins & Sells, of New York, which is quoted as to prices it receives for its accountants, is represented at this investigation.

Therefore, we may be prepared as to what to expect, and so as to not be staggered by what is coming, I suggest to the interested citizen that he train himself to think of figures of magnitude.

In conformity with this way of doing things, there will be other actions of the committee that may not please the people.

Never mind, the doors are open, thanks to the House, and Monday night we will see what we shall see.

## THIS BILL IS ALL RIGHT.

Mr. Zim has introduced a new bill in the Senate, creating a Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics. A similar bill was defeated in the Senate, because Senators objected to the extent of the bill; there was too much machinery about it, too many officers provided, and too much money necessary to be appropriated to carry it out.

This new bill of Senator Zim's MEETS ALL OF THESE OBJECTIONS.

It provides that there shall be one Commissioner of Labor who shall receive a modest salary and actual traveling expenses.

Labor plays an important part in the life of the State and Nation.

More people earn their bread with both their hands and their heads than with their heads without their hands.

The "toiling masses" is no figure of speech. They are an actual reality.

It is the duty of the State to look after the masses of the people with more jealous care than is exercised in regard to the select few.

Up to the good year 1905, which will go down to history as the jubilee year for the many, legislation was mainly directed for the BENEFIT OF THE FEW.

This has been changed; this is now the day of the masses.

The people are coming into their own again. The tendency of all legislative bodies, the trend of all governments the world over, is toward the betterment of the condition of the people, known by writers and speakers as the common people.

From the standpoint of the people's interest this Legislature of 1907 will go down into history as the best Legislature which ever assembled.

Florida would be behind in the great movement for the betterment of the conditions of the many if its lawmakers were to fail to pass a bill putting on the statute books a law for the gathering of statistics, and generally looking after the condition of the laboring classes.

Senator Zim's bill as it now is it appears is a modest bill. It does not ask much. It is a beginning.

If the report made by the Commissioner created under the act should be such as to show the usefulness of this bureau, and the need for its further development, the next Legislature might extend it by making increased appropriations and a provision for additional offices.

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